



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Principal Center for Regulatory Risk Analysis and Communication

REGULATORY ALERT

Actions to Address Chemicals of Concern under TSCA

This information was prepared by NASA's Principal Center for Regulatory Risk Analysis and Communication (RRAC). An archive of regulatory alerts, summaries and other information is posted on the [website](#). If you have further questions and/or need assistance, please contact Sharon Scroggins (256-544-7932, sharon.scroggins@nasa.gov).

Date: 30 December 2009

Regulatory Agency: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Rulemaking Type: Not applicable

Title: EPA Announces Actions to Address Chemicals of Concern, Including Phthalates

Summary:

On 30 December 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a series of action plans under the Toxic Substances and Control Act (TSCA) on the following four types of substances: 1) [phthalates](#); 2) [short-chain chlorinated paraffins \(SCCPs\)](#); 3) [polybrominated diphenyl ethers \(PBDEs\)](#), including penta-, octa-, and deca-bromodiphenyl ethers (decaBDE); and 4) [long-chain perfluorinated chemicals \(PFCs\)](#). These action plans are intended to summarize available hazard, exposure, and use information; to outline the risks that each chemical may present; and to identify specific steps EPA intends to take to address health or environmental concerns.

The [actions announced](#) include the following:

- Adding phthalates and PBDEs to a "chemicals of concern" list to be developed by EPA.
- Initiating a Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) rulemaking to add six phthalates.
- Beginning a process that could lead to risk reduction actions, possibly including a restriction or ban of the material, under Section 6 of TSCA for several phthalates, SCCPs, and PFCs.
- Evaluating alternatives for phthalates and PFCs.
- Continuing to work toward the elimination of long-chain PFCs from emissions and products.
- Proposing Significant New Use Rules (SNURs) for PBDEs.
- Reinforcing the decaBDE phaseout with requirements to ensure that any new uses of PBDEs are reviewed by EPA prior to implementation.

EPA will seek formal review and comment regarding the regulatory actions included in the plans as they are proposed in the *Federal Register*.

NASA Considerations:

The substances listed above are used in the manufacture of a wide array of products. Phthalates are used as plasticizers to increase the flexibility, transparency, durability, and longevity of plastics. SCCPs are used as a component of lubricants and coolants in metalworking applications and as both secondary plasticizers and flame retardants in plastics. PBDEs are used as flame retardants in a wide range of products. PFCs are used in a variety of industrial and consumer applications, including use as a processing aid in the manufacture of non-stick and stain-resistant surfaces.

Health and environmental regulations related to phthalates, SCCPs, PBDEs, and PFCs are expected to become more restrictive over time. Stricter regulations may result in vendor and supplier efforts to replace or eliminate constituents or may provide suppliers with an incentive to redesign components or reformulate materials to reduce the use of these materials. Either of these vendor and supplier responses could result in a materials obsolescence risk for NASA Programs.

Additional Information: <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/existingchemicals/>